



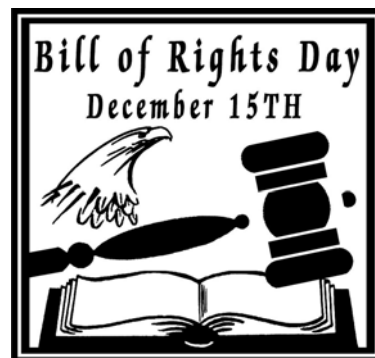
Notes 'n Stuff

selfridge (army) community service 1 dec '03

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SELFRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

	December 2003				
DAY	EVENT	LOCATION	TIMES	INFO	NUMBERS
2	Say Bah Humbug to holiday depression	B 780		Anna	307-5211
4	Newcomers briefing			Kevin	307-5949
4	Diabetes self management				
9	Start of life M.A.P.	B 780		Anna	307-5211
	VA Outreach Counselor (Tuesdays)	B 780			307-5211
TBD	Drug/Drunk driving awareness month				



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UNLIMITED COMMISSARY BENEFITS

The Department of Defense announced today that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- ◆ Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and
- ◆ Members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.
- ◆ Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.
- ◆ Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers." . . .

Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop. . . .

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted decisively and immediately in providing interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

For more information about the Defense Commissary Agency, see their Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com/>

WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING . . .

(Editor's note We at SCS receive calls from companies, schools, organizations, families and individuals all wanting to help make the holidays for our deployed service members better. Here are some ways you can help)

* You can record an Audio Postcard toll free at 1-800-330-5090, your message will play on www.SoldierRadio.Com web casting to Soldiers worldwide [All this from the Radio side of Soldiers Radio & Television.]

* Below are tips for recording an effective message:

Prepare your greeting ahead of time...something like: "This is Lisa Smith from Earlville, Illinois and I want to wish (my husband Jimmy, All the men and women of Bravo 106 PSB, everyone in Iraq, etc...) happy holidays. I love you and I'm thinking about you. Stay Safe."

- ◆ Pause for just a moment after the tone and then begin your message.
- ◆ You have :30 seconds, but the best messages are between :10 and :15 seconds long.
- ◆ After your message is finished wait for the recording time to end and you'll have an opportunity to listen to your message and re-record if necessary.
- ◆ Call as many times as you like but avoid repeating the same message to the same person over and over.
- ◆ Keep personal politics and religion out of the message. Saying "we're all praying for your safe return..." is fine. Encouraging others to change their beliefs or being critical of certain political thoughts is not. Remember that not everyone believes the same things.

Messages may be as personal, or as generic, as you like. Listen for your message on the Army's Web Radio Station: SoldiersRadio.Com

* The post office accepts ONLY mail addresses to a specific person so you CAN'T send to "Any servicemember"

* You CAN send an E-greeting and or Fax to Servicemembers overseas..
www.AnyServicemember.Org is the clearing site for information and links to all these options.

* You can send a BX/PX gift card Send a "Gifts from the HomeFront" gift certificate to an individual military family member, friend, loved one. To deployed troops, Air Force members and their families, and to wounded and hospitalized servicemembers. They can use it at any PX/BX location around the world including 34 stores in SW Asia. Visit this website for details <http://www.certifichecks.com/>

* You can shop for gift boxes to send. Treats for Troops has a shopping site that allows you to customize a special treat for servicemembers throughout the world.
<http://www.treatsfortroops.com/>

NAVY SIGNALMAN RATING SCRATCHED

The Navy plans to disestablish the Signalman (SM) rating over the course of the next year. Approximately 10 percent of SM rated sailors will be converted to QM, and the rest will have the opportunity to convert into other ratings. Personnel officials say it is critical that command retention teams work closely with their SMs to ensure they are aware of conversion options, have the most up-to-date Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery scores on record, and select the CREO 1 and 2 ratings for which they are fully qualified. All SM rated personnel should submit rating conversion requests by Jan. 31, 2004. Conversions should be submitted per MILPERSMAN 1440-010. Since SM is a Perform To Serve Rating, all first-term Signalmen must submit conversion rating preferences as part of PTS applications. SMs who are not converted into another rating will be permitted to serve until their end of active obligated service. From This Week's Armed Forces News Issue: Fri, Nov. 21, 2003

RECALLS

Release #04-036

Meijer Recall Hotline: (866) 280-8419 CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC, Meijer Inc. Announce Recall of Children's Jackets

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Meijer Inc., of Grand Rapids, Mich., is voluntarily recalling about 7,500 children's jackets. These jackets have hood drawstrings. Children can get entangled and strangle in the drawstrings that catch on objects, including playground equipment, fences and tree branches. CPSC knows of numerous deaths from neck/hood drawstrings. To help prevent children from strangling by their clothing drawstrings, in 1996 CPSC issued guidelines for drawstrings on children's outerwear, which were subsequently incorporated into a voluntary standard. Meijer has not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The recalled Falls Creek Army Flight Jackets are for boys size 4 through 7 and 8 through 18, as well as toddlers sizes 2T through 5T.

These jackets are made of blue or olive nylon fabric and are decorated with assorted patriotic patches on the sleeves, chest and back. The hood is bordered with synthetic brown and tan fur. These jackets were manufactured in Korea. Meijer stores in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky sold the jackets from July 2003 through October 2003 for between \$26 and \$33.

Consumers should stop their children from wearing the jacket immediately and contact Meijer toll-free at (866) 280-8419 anytime or log on to their Web site at www.meijer.com for information on how to return the jacket for a full refund. Parents also can remove the drawstring, which will make the jacket safe for children to wear.

To see a picture of the recalled product, use the following link:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04036.html>

CPSC, Fisher-Price Announce Recall of Scooters and Mini Bikes

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, (CPSC), Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 30,000 electric scooters and about 55,000 electric mini bikes. The motor control circuits can malfunction causing the scooters and mini bikes to continue to run after the power or throttle button is released, posing a risk of injury to children.

Fisher-Price has received 56 reports of incidents with the scooters, including one report of a chipped tooth and one report of a broken arm. Fisher-Price has received 24 reports of incidents involving the mini bike, including one report of a leg laceration.

The recalled Lightning PAC Scooters and MX3 Mini Bikes are battery powered ride-on toys designed for children ages six years and older. The product names are located on the side of the toy. The recalled scooters and mini bikes have model numbers of 73530 (Lightning PAC) or 73535 and B2222 (MX3 Mini Bike), which can be found inside the battery compartment. The recalled toys were manufactured in China.

Mass merchants and toy stores nationwide sold scooters between November 2001 and October 2003 for about \$250 and sold mini bikes between May 2003 and September 2003 for about \$200.

Consumers should take the toy vehicle(s) away from children immediately and contact Fisher-Price at (800) 528-7153 anytime or log on to www.service.mattel.com to receive information on how to have their toys serviced for free at a certified Power Wheels Service Center. The Service Centers will make modifications to the toy vehicles' circuitry.

Use this link to see a picture of the recalled item:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04031.html>

CPSC, Target Corporation Announce Recall of Multicolored Sidewalk Chalk

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the manufacturers named below, today announced voluntary recalls of the following consumer products. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. (To access color photos of the following recalled products, see CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.)

Name of product: Multicolored Sidewalk Chalk

Units: 26,000 packages

Manufacturer/Importer: Manufactured by Agglo Corporation, Hong Kong and imported by Target Corporation, Minneapolis, Minn.

Manufactured in: China

Hazard: The multicolored sidewalk chalk contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children. The Wisconsin Department of Health tested the chalk and identified the lead in the chalk.

Incidents/Injuries: none

Description: The sidewalk chalk is packaged in plastic that is molded to five sticks of chalk and a cardboard backing that is labeled "Double Dipp'n Fun." Each stick of chalk is triangular shaped and multicolored, with three colors layered together (green, red, yellow, or blue). This recall does not affect solid color chalk sold in the same packaging.

Sold from: The sidewalk chalk was sold at Target stores from March 2003 to July 2003 for about \$1 per package.

Remedy: Consumers should return the multicolored sidewalk chalk to Target stores for a refund.

Consumer Contact: Call Target Corporation at (800) 440-0680 between 7 am and 6 pm CT, Monday through Friday, or go to the company's Web site at www.target.com

Use this link to see a picture of the recalled item:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml04/04032.html>

CPSC, Merit Furniture Distributors Announce Recall of Bunk Beds

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Merit Bunk Beds

Units: 524

Importer: Merit Furniture Distributors, Inc., Brooklyn, NY

Hazard: The bunk beds have openings between the guardrails and in the end structures that are too large. A child's body could slide between the openings and could become trapped by the head, posing a serious strangulation hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Merit has not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

Description: The "twin over twin" bunk beds involve model #DLM550, #DLM160, and #860. The wooden recalled bunk beds are labeled with the "Merit" name and specific model numbers on the top front railing system of the bunk beds.

Sold at: Furniture stores nationwide sold the bunk beds from May 2002 through August 2003 for about \$150

Manufactured in: Brazil.

Remedy: Consumers should contact Merit for information on how to return their bunk bed and receive a full refund.

Consumer Contact: Call Merit at (800) 233-1778 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or log on the company's Web site at www.meritfurniture distributors.com

To see a picture of the recalled item, use the following link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml04/04034.html>

CPSC, Bachtold Brothers Inc. Announce Recall of Brush Cutters

Name of product: Weed and Brush Cutters

Units: 63,600

Manufacturer: Bachtold Brothers Inc., of Gibson City, Ill.

Hazard: The operator can come in contact with the rotating blade, even when disengaged, by pulling on the front of the mower deck while the engine is running, posing a serious injury hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: The company has received eight reports of laceration injuries.

Description: The recalled Weed and Brush Cutters have an orange or green body and include the W-24 models, sold under the Bachtold Whipper, DR Field & Brush Mower, and B-800 (with a 77-100 deck) brand names. The brand name is printed on the drive box between the engine and the left wheel. DR All-Terrain Field & Brush mowers manufactured by Country Home Products are not included in this recall.

Sold through: The brush cutters were sold through Country Home Products' catalogues, as well as independent distributors nationwide, from January 1978 through April 2001 for between \$950 and \$1,600. The Country Home Products Web site sold the brush cutters between 1989 and 1999.

Manufactured in: United States.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the units immediately and contact Bachtold if you have the Whipper or B-800 models or contact Country Home Products if you have the DR Field & Brush model to receive a free repair kit. The repair involves the installation of a mechanism that will shut down the engine if and when the operator takes his/her hands off the handlebar.

Consumer Contact: Call Bachtold Brothers toll-free at (877) 784-5161 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or Country Home Products toll-free at (877) 595-3668 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday. Consumers also can log on to www.bachtoldbros.com or www.weedcutterrecall.com.

To see a picture of the recalled item, visit the following link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04043.html>

CPSC, Barnett of the Caribbean Announce Recall of Showerhead Hot Water Heaters

Name of product: Showerhead Hot Water Heaters

Units: 17,400

Manufacturer: Sintex of Brazil, distributed by Barnett of the Caribbean, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Hazard: The showerhead hot water heaters are attached to the shower's water supply piping and connected to a household's electrical supply source when central hot water is not available. Undersized wiring prevents this unit from being suitable in wet locations, the rotary switch is not waterproof and the installation instructions fail to recommend an electrical junction box, but instead recommends tape. Another hazard is the plastic enclosure which poses an electrocution and fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: None.

Description: Showerhead heaters involved in the recall include model numbers 194310 and 192033. The model numbers are printed on the front of the unit. The heaters are packaged in a clear, plastic bag with card, or in a printed box that reads in part, "Sintex Super Ducha," "Sintex Electronic," and "Made in Brazil."

Sold at: Hardware stores and home improvement centers in Puerto Rico from March 2001 through August 2003 for about \$20.

Manufactured in: Brazil

Remedy: Consumers should contact the retailer where the product was purchased or Barnett of the Caribbean for more information on returning the product for a refund.

Consumer Contact: Call Barnett of the Caribbean toll-free at (800) 368- 0809 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.e-barnett.com.

To see a picture of the recalled item, visit the following link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04044.html>

CPSC, SCI Promotion Group LLC and Scripto-Tokai Corp. Announce Recall of Mini-Flashlights

Name of product: Mini-flashlights

Units: 448,000

Distributor: SCI Promotion Group LLC of Ontario, Calif. and Scripto- Tokai Corporation of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Hazard: The mini-flashlight's battery compartment can overheat, presenting a possible burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: The company has received two reports of flashlights overheating. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The mini-flashlights were provided to consumers as a free gift with the purchase of Aim n' Flame II multi-purpose lighters. The black, plastic flashlight is about 5 1/4-inches long with a thin red ring around the barrel. There is no safety issue relating to the multi-purpose lighter and it is not the subject of this voluntary recall.

Sold at: Home improvement, discount, convenience, grocery and drug stores nationwide sold the multipurpose lighters with the flashlights from September 2003 through November 2003 for between \$4 and \$6.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should remove the batteries and discard the mini- flashlights.

Consumer Contact: Call SCI Promotion Group, LLC at (877) 746-7426 between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

To see a picture of the recalled item, visit the following link:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04045.html>

November 25, 2003

Release # 04-037 CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Contact: Nychelle Fleming (301) 504-7063 or Kim Dulic (301) 504-7058

CPSC Chairman Warns Holiday Shoppers about Hazardous Recalled Toys

-- New Federal Web Site Launched -- www.Recalls.gov

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman Hal Stratton today warned holiday season gift buyers to be on the lookout for recently recalled toys and children's products that pose serious safety threats to youngsters. To provide consumers easier access to all recall announcements, Chairman Stratton also announced the launch of a new federal government inter-agency Web site -- www.Recalls.gov.

"Before purchasing or giving any gift, particularly one intended for a child, double-check to make sure it does not pose a hazard," Stratton said. "Visit CPSC's Web site to determine if it has been recalled. Another option is to go to the easy-to-remember Web address www.Recalls.gov. It's a 'one-stop shop' for the latest information on all federal government recalls."

The new www.Recalls.gov site provides links to all federal agencies with statutory authority to issue recalls, including CPSC, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visitors can easily find information about all federal government recalls -- regardless of the jurisdiction of the agency or the nature of the recall.

"We're confident visitors will find www.Recalls.gov to be a convenient portal to important safety information covering consumer goods, automobiles, boats, drugs, cosmetics and environmental products," Stratton said. "I want to thank our federal partners, including the General Services Administration, which manages www.firstgov.gov, for their cooperation. I also

want to acknowledge many corporate and trade association partners for their efforts to make Americans aware of www.Recalls.gov (list of partners). By working together, we can save countless lives and prevent injuries," Stratton said.

While considering product safety when shopping for new gift items, Stratton also urged Americans to examine older toys and products in their possession that can pose hazards. He urged operators of daycare centers and thrift stores to be especially vigilant in removing previously recalled items such as older baby cribs, baby walkers, and high chairs from their premises.

Consumers can get the list of recalled toys and children's products by going to the CPSC Web site, www.cpsc.gov, or by calling toll-free (800) 638-2772.

Checklist of Recalled Children's Products:

Woody Dolls (40,000) distributed by Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at the Disney Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Disney's Vero Beach Resort, Magic of Disney and Flight Fantastic shops at the Orlando International Airport, and Disney's Worldport shop at Pointe Orlando. The doll's clothing has buttons that can detach, posing a choking hazard for young children. Walt Disney Parks and Resorts received one report of a child removing a button from the Woody doll, but no injuries were reported. Call Walt Disney Parks and Resorts at (866) 228-3664 or visit www.waltdisneyworld.com to receive a refund.

Little People Animal Sounds Farm (67,000) distributed by Fisher-Price. Two small metal screws that hold the toy "stall doors" in place can come off, posing an aspiration or choking hazard to young children. Fisher-Price has received 33 reports of the screws coming off the toy, including four reports of a screw that was found in the child's mouth and one report of a child who aspirated a screw into his lung. This case required the child to be hospitalized and undergo emergency surgery to remove the screw from his lung. Call Fisher-Price toll-free at (866) 259-7873 to receive a free repair kit. Log on to www.service.mattel.com to determine if your product is one of the recalled models and to order the free repair kit.

Drumsticks sold with toy drum sets (300,000) distributed by Battat Incorporated. The end piece of the drumstick handle can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children. The screw at the end of the drumstick can loosen and detach, posing a choking hazard. Battat and CPSC have received about 240 reports of drumsticks breaking and children mouthing the small pieces, including 1 report of a child who began to choke. Call Battat toll-free at (800) 247-6144 to get a replacement set of drumsticks.

Scooters (30,000) and Mini Bikes (55,000) distributed by Fisher -Price. The motor control circuits can malfunction causing the scooters and mini bikes to continue to run after the power or throttle button is released, posing a risk of injury to children. Fisher-Price has received 56 reports of incidents with scooters and 24 reports of mini bike incidents, including a broken arm and one report of a leg laceration. Call Fisher-Price toll free at (800) 528-7153 anytime or log on to www.service.mattel.com to receive information on how to have the toys serviced for free at a certified Power Wheels Service Center.

Cosco "Arriva" and "Turnabout" Infant Car Seats/Carriers (1,200,000) distributed by Dorel Juvenile Group Inc. When the seat is used as a carrier, the plastic handle locks can unexpectedly break or release from the carrying position, causing the seat to unlatch or flip forward. When this happens, an infant can fall to the ground and suffer injuries. Dorel Juvenile Group has received 416 reports of the handle locks breaking or unlatching, resulting in nine injuries to children. Consumers may continue to use the product as a car seat but should stop using it as a carrier. Call Dorel at (800) 880-9435 to get a free repair kit, or go to www.djgusa.com.

"Spit Smatter" Spray Foam (1,300,000) distributed by JAKKS Pacific Inc. The aerosol cans can forcefully break apart, posing a risk of serious injury. JAKKS has received four reports of the aerosol cans breaking apart, including one incident that resulted in a laceration injury to a consumer and several incidents involving property damage. Call JAKKS Pacific at (800) 554-5516 or go to www.jakkspace.com to get instructions on disposal and how to receive a refund.

Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand (300,000) distributed by Playskool. The toy, which is designed to encourage crawling babies to pull themselves up and stand, can tip over during use and strike falling babies in the head, face or neck, resulting in injuries. Playskool has received 44 reports of the toys tipping over during use. There have been 26 reports of babies suffering injuries, including one minor concussion, and various bumps, bruises, black eyes and cut lips. Call Playskool at (800) 509-9554 anytime to get information on how to return the product to receive a free replacement item of similar value.

"Pack 'n Play" portable play yards with raised changing tables (538,000) distributed by Graco Children's Products. When children are placed in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place, they can crawl under and lift the table up. If this occurs, a child's head and neck can become trapped between the changing table and the play yard rail, causing a strangulation hazard. A 13-month-old girl strangled when her neck became trapped between the Pack 'n Play rail and the raised changing table. Consumers should never place a child in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place. Contact Graco to receive a free warning label to be affixed to the changing table. Call (800) 233-1546 or go to www.gracobaby.com.

Playpens that can collapse (five brands totaling more than 1,500,000 units) and entrap a child in the V-shape folded top rails. The top rails must be turned to set up the playpen. CPSC is aware of 15 deaths to children when the top rails of playpens collapsed. A new industry standard requires that the top rails of these playpens automatically lock into place when the playpen is fully set up. CPSC obtained voluntary recalls of the following playpens with top rails that people had to turn into place when setting up the playpen: Evenflo "Happy Camper," "Happy Cabana," and "Kiddie Camper;" Century "Fold-N-Go" Models 10-710 and 10-810; Baby Trend "Home and Roam" and "Baby Express;" and Kolcraft "Playskool Travel-Lite Model." CPSC also issued a safety warning about "All Our Kids" Models 742 and 762 playpens imported by a firm that is out of business.

Multicolored Sidewalk Chalk (26,000 packages) imported by Target Corporation. The multicolored sidewalk chalk contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children. The sidewalk chalk was sold at Target stores from March 2003 to July 2003 for about \$1 per package. Consumers should return the multicolored sidewalk chalk to Target stores for a refund. Call Target Corporation at (800) 440-0680 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday or go to the company's Web site at www.target.com.

T OY SAFETY TIPS:

- * Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.

- * For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard.

- * Look for sturdy construction on plush toys, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.

- * Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points, especially for children under age 8.
- * Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- * Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- * Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- * Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become deadly playthings. Plastic wrappings can cause suffocation.

HISTORY PROJECT TELLS OF AMERICAN VETS

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19, 2003 --The letters, memoirs, audio interviews and photographs are "everything that you could imagine," said Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, director of the Veterans History Project [<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>], an effort begun by Congress two years ago to preserve the stories and memories of America's war veterans.

The letters, she said, speak of combat and what war was like. There are also stories of pranks and funny misfortunes that occurred while veterans were on leave. But most stories, she said, speak of the closeness and camaraderie within the military - "my buddies, my unit, and loyalty," she noted, adding, "Loyalty is a very big theme." . . .

The Veterans History Project has also expanded features on its Web site, to include more digitized letters, photos and individual stories. Site visitors can now "see and listen" to the stories of 23 veterans, she said. And there is no shortage of stories to tell. In the two years since the project began, McCulloch-Lovell said interest by veterans wanting to share their stories has increased immensely. For the past year, her staff of about 15 has been receiving as many as 200 submissions each week at the project's office, located inside the Library of Congress Folklife Center [<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>] in Washington.

"I think the older veterans are not sitting back and waiting for someone to interview them," she said. "They're sitting down and writing these remarkable memoirs and personal stories and are sending them to us. We have a memoir that's 20 pages long. And we have another memoir that's 900 pages long." . . .

On the importance of the Veterans History Project, she said that 100 years from now people will be able to look back and understand why veterans served. "A student, or family member or a historian, or journalist is going to be looking at this collection and understanding the experience of people who went through war and how it changed them and how it changed the country," she said.

"Certainly our goals are to collect and to preserve the stories," she pointed out, "but I think we also have two very important goals -- that we honor the service and that we educate future generations about what it's like to serve."

PEACE OF MIND IS AFFORDABLE

(Editor's Note: See if you have adequate insurance, call the Selfridge Community Service Financial Readiness Office for an insurance review 307-2007)

By Tech. Sgt. Patrick Murphy Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) - Many people spend years painstakingly acquiring furniture, electronics, wall hangings, and curtains-all the things that make a house a home. But few realize just how quickly those prized possessions can be obliterated by a fire or flood. Even fewer realize the extensive costs associated with in-home accidents.

What could make someone who has just lost everything feel better? Two words: renter's insurance.

Recent events around the command have highlighted the importance of renter's insurance. Langley AFB and the surrounding communities suffered hundreds of millions of dollars of damage thanks to Hurricane Isabel in September. Four Minot AFB families also found themselves homeless when their four-plex base housing unit caught fire recently, their possessions damaged by water used to extinguish the blaze. Only one of the Minot families had renter's insurance.

"I don't think enough of our people understand the importance of renter's insurance," said Brig. Gen. Charles Dunlap, Jr., Air Combat Command's staff judge advocate. "I'm especially concerned that people living on base think they don't need it. Renter's insurance also provides protection for in-home accidents. For example, if your animal bites a visitor, a guest is hurt on your trampoline or drowns in your swimming pool or someone slips and falls in your home, your policy could cover you."

Whether living on or off base, renter's insurance is a must for those who do not own their own residences, General Dunlap said. Replacing everything inside a home is an expensive and time-consuming task.

"Renter's insurance provides a fairly quick recovery from a disaster, and certainly eases the financial burden of getting a family back on its feet," he said. "But most important, it is not very expensive to obtain. That's a lot of peace of mind for a little bit of money."

The average cost of renter's insurance is about \$12 a month for around \$30,000 of property coverage and \$100,000 of liability coverage, according to the National Landlord-Tenant Guide at www.rentlaw.com. Rates will vary depending on the type of coverage sought and location of the residence covered.

The guide states that renter's insurance may cover repair or replacement of the personal property damaged, destroyed or stolen as a result of various types of peril, like fire, lightening, hail, explosions, smoke, vandalism, theft, damage by glass, electrical surge damage and water-related damage from home utilities. If a home is made unlivable by one of these perils, renter's insurance can pay for the associated expenses like a temporary residence or meals eaten out. . . .

"Certainly it is up to each person whether they choose to obtain renter's insurance. But it is a decision that can often be overlooked when running a busy household," General Dunlap said. "I encourage people to seriously consider it right away if they don't have it already. If you do have it, make sure your policy contains the appropriate coverage and understand the restrictions. Recent examples have shown that you really can lose everything in the blink of an eye."

NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS CELEBRATES 228TH

By Operations Specialist 2nd Class Wendy Kahn, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) -- The Navy Chaplain Corps celebrated its 228th anniversary Nov. 13, commemorating a history that traces back to 1775.

Today's Navy chaplains represent more than 100 faith groups. They provide religious support and counseling services to Sailors and Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Mariners during war and peacetime operations.

The term "chaplain" is derived from a French legend. According to the legend, Saint Martin of Tours split his cloak in half and shared it with a beggar at the gates of Amiens, France. The officer tasked with the care of the cloak and carrying it into battle was called the chaplain or "cloak bearer."

A Navy chaplain's role on active duty is very rewarding, yet hard at times, according to Lt. Cmdr. Mark Koczak, a Russian Orthodox priest and one of National Naval Medical Center's (NNMC) staff chaplains. Unlike a civilian pastor, who is limited to one faith group, military chaplains work with people from different faith groups.

"It's a different kind of ministry than being a priest in a civilian church," he says. "I work at NNMC to serve our Sailors, Marines and patients. I also served in four Armed Forces, and advising people from various religious denominations is a neat experience, but it's not an easy life. We're different people, because we're sometimes isolated from the rest of the people in our faith group." . . .

They are assigned to hospitals, ships, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. Currently, there are about 860 Navy chaplains on active duty; about 200 of them are serving with Marines and 40 are in the Coast Guard.

Besides performing divine services, chaplains are the ethical, moral and religious advisors for the commanding officer of a particular unit. Chaplains can request religious materials, contact a member's minister on behalf of that Sailor or advise the command of a member's religious dietary needs. The bottom line is that they are chaplains for everyone. From NavNews for Monday, November 24, 2003

WORTH REPEATING

You don't lead by hitting people over the head-that's assault, not leadership.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

CAPTION CONTEST



The winning caption is

“John didn’t realize what they meant when they asked him if he would be interested in a ride on the stealth bomber”

Thanks to Bradley Brumm, Tank automotive and Armaments Command, Warren

Second goes to

“ Okay boss, she looks pretty sturdy to me . . . ”

Thanks to Brittany Woodruff, 927th

This edition’s Caption contest photo



Editor Dave Colangelo

U.S. Army Garrison-Michigan

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